CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A chain comprising:

a first link having a first blocking member;

a second link having a second blocking member, the second link pivotally attached to the first link; and

the first blocking member having an exterior periphery engageable with an exterior periphery of the second blocking member when the first link and the second link are positioned in a first position relative to one another, the exterior periphery of the first blocking member being displaced from the exterior periphery of the second blocking member when the first link and the second link are positioned in a second position relative to one another.

2. The chain of Claim 1, wherein:

the first link comprising a first plate having a first aperture; and

the second link comprising a second plate having a second aperture, whereby the first link is positionable relative to the second link such that a centerline of the first aperture of the first plate substantially coincides with a centerline of the second aperture of the second plate; and

a pin for pivotally connecting the first plate to the second plate, the pin having an external periphery engageable with the first aperture of the first plate and the second aperture of the second plate.

3. The chain of Claim 2, wherein:

the first plate further comprising a second aperture, whereby the geometric centers of the first and second apertures of the first plate define a longitudinal axis of the first plate;

the second plate further comprising a first aperture, whereby the geometric centers of the first and second apertures of the second plate define a longitudinal axis of the second plate.

4. The chain of Claim 3, wherein:

an exterior peripheral dimension of the first blocking member, measured parallel to the longitudinal axis of the first plate, is substantially equal to the distance between the first and the second apertures of the first plate; and

an exterior peripheral dimension of the second blocking member, measured parallel to the longitudinal axis of the second plate, is substantially equal to the distance between the first and second apertures of the second plate.

5. The chain of Claim 4, wherein the longitudinal axis of the first plate is aligned substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the second plate when the first and second links are positioned in the first position.

6. The chain of Claim 2, wherein:

an exterior peripheral dimension of the first blocking member, measured parallel to the longitudinal axis of the first plate, is less than the distance between the first and second apertures of the first plate; and

an exterior peripheral dimension of the second blocking member, measured parallel to the longitudinal axis of the second plate, is less than the distance between the first and second apertures of the second plate.

7. The chain of Claim 6, wherein the longitudinal axis of the first plate and the longitudinal axis of the second plate form an angle less than 180 degrees measured from the opposite side of the chain on which the first and second blocking members are positioned.

8. The chain of Claim 3, wherein:

an exterior peripheral dimension of the first blocking member, measured parallel to the longitudinal axis of the first plate, is greater than the distance between the first and second apertures of the first plate; and

an exterior peripheral dimension of the second blocking member, measured parallel to the longitudinal axis of the second plate, is greater than the distance between the first and second apertures of the second plate.

9. The chain of Claim 8, wherein the longitudinal axis of the first plate and the longitudinal axis of the second plate form an angle greater than 180 degrees as measured from the opposite side of the chain on which the first and second blocking members are positioned.

10. The chain of Claim 1, the first link comprising:

a first plate having a first projection extending laterally outward from the first plate;

a second plate having a second projection extending laterally outward from the second plate, the first plate positioned juxtapose to and spaced apart from the second plate; and

the blocking member retentively positioned between the first projection of the first plate and the second projection of the second plate.

11. The chain of Claim 10, further comprising a first pin having an external periphery engageable with a first aperture defined by the first projection and a second aperture defined by the blocking member.

12. The chain of Claim 11, wherein the external periphery of the first pin is engageable with an aperture defined by the second projection.

13. The chain of Claim 10, further comprising:

a second pin having an external periphery engageable with a third aperture defined by the first plate;

a third pin having an external periphery engageable with a fourth aperture defined by the first plate, a geometric center of the third aperture and a geometric center of the fourth aperture defining a longitudinal axis of the first plate; and

wherein the first aperture is positionable relative to the third and fourth apertures such that an imaginary line intersecting the geometric center of the first aperture and oriented perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the first plate intersects the longitudinal axis of the first plate at a point intermediate the third and fourth apertures.

14. The chain of Claim 1, the second link comprising:

a first plate having a first projection extending laterally outward from the first plate;

a second plate having a second projection extending laterally outward from the second plate;

the first plate positioned juxtapose to and spaced apart from the second plate; and

the blocking member retentively positioned between the first projection of the first plate and the second projection of the second plate.

15. The chain of Claim 14, further comprising a first pin having an external periphery engageable with a first aperture defined by the first projection and a second aperture defined by the blocking member.

16. The chain of Claim 15, wherein the external periphery of the first pin is engageable with an aperture defined by the second projection.

17. The chain of Claim 14, further comprising:

a second pin having an external periphery engageable with a third aperture defined by the first plate;

a third pin having an external periphery engageable with a fourth aperture defined by the first plate, a geometric center of the third aperture and a geometric center of the fourth aperture defining a longitudinal axis of the first plate; and

wherein the first aperture is positionable relative to the third and fourth apertures such that an imaginary line intersecting the geometric center of the first aperture and oriented perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the first plate intersects the longitudinal axis of the first plate at a point intermediate the third and fourth apertures.

18. A chain link comprising:

a first plate having a first projection extending laterally outward from the first plate;

a second plate having a second projection extending laterally outward from the second plate, the first plate positioned juxtapose to and spaced apart from the second plate; and

a blocking member retentively positioned between the first projection of the first plate and the second projection of the second plate.

19. The chain link of Claim 18, further comprising a first pin having an external periphery, wherein the external periphery of the first pin is engageable with a first aperture defined by the first projection and a second aperture defined by the blocking member.

20. The chain link of Claim 19, wherein the external periphery of the first pin is engageable with an aperture defined by the second projection.

21. The chain link of Claim 19, further comprising:

a second pin having an external periphery engageable with a third aperture defined by the first plate;

a third pin having an external periphery engageable with a fourth aperture defined by the first plate, a geometric center of the third aperture and a geometric center of the fourth aperture defining a longitudinal axis of the first plate; and

wherein the first aperture is positionable relative to the third and fourth apertures such that an imaginary line intersecting the geometric center of the first aperture and oriented perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the first plate intersects the longitudinal axis of the first plate at a point intermediate the third and fourth apertures.

22. The chain link of Claim 18, wherein the blocking member is rotatably attached to the first projection of the first plate.

23. The chain link of Claim 22, wherein the blocking member is rotatable about an axis oriented substantially perpendicular to the first projection.

24. The chain link of Claim 18, wherein the blocking member has a substantially cylindrical shaped external periphery.

25. The chain link of Claim 18, wherein the blocking member comprises a substantially flat first external peripheral surface and a substantially flat second external peripheral surface aligned substantially parallel to the first external peripheral surface.

26. The chain link of Claim 18, wherein the blocking member has a first end surface engageable with the first projection and a second end surface engageable with the second projection.

27. The chain link of Claim 18, wherein the blocking member is fixedly attached to the first projection of the first plate.

28. The chain link of Claim 18, wherein the first plate is oriented substantially parallel to the second plate.

29. The chain link of Claim 18, wherein the first projection extends latterly outward from an edge surface of the fist plate.

30. The chain link of Claim 18, wherein the second projection extends latterly outward from an edge surface of the second plate.